

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to a combined oil-control ring; and

Group II, claims 10 and 11, drawn to a nitriding method.

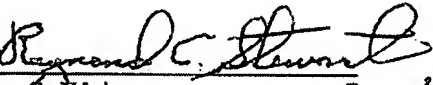
For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-9.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Registration No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: OCT 11 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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